

Remarks/Arguments:

With this response, claims 1-33 are presently pending, with claims 10 and 13 having been amended and new claims 32 and 33 having been added. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-9 and 14-31 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,082,247 to Owens et al. ("Owens"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Amended claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, a knife gate valve comprising a valve body having mating halves that, in an assembled configuration, define a flow channel extending through the body. A knife gate is adapted to slide within a gate channel between the halves of the valve body into an open position that allows flow within the flow channel and a closed position that blocks flow within the flow channel. A gate seal is mounted in a gate seal chamber defined by the mating valve body halves. The gate seal has a sealing surface lining a perimeter of the gate channel for creating a seal with the knife gate. An integral gasket extends from the gate seal in a direction opposite the sealing surface and is compressed between the body halves.

Owens discloses a knife gate valve having a first gate seal 24 that seals an upstream face of a knife gate 22 and a second gate seal 24 that seals a downstream face of the knife gate 22. See Fig. 11 of Owens. Each of the two seals 24 are wholly disposed on either the upstream side or the downstream side of the knife gate 22.

In order to anticipate a claim under 35 U.S.C. §102, the reference must teach every element of the claim. M.P.E.P. §2131. Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) and M.P.E.P. §2131.

Applicants respectfully submit that Owens fails to disclose or suggest the claimed structure of a gate seal that lines a perimeter of a gate channel. Owens requires two gate seals 24 to seal his knife gate 22. Such a sealing mechanism opens the possibility of leaks between

the two gate seals 24. As seen in Fig. 9 of Owens, a leak of operating fluid from between the two seals 24 would leak out the seat exit 144 and out of the valve 20. Further, Owens fails to disclose or suggest a sealing gasket that is compressed between and seals the body halves. The present invention of claim 10, as amended, recites that the seal lines the perimeter of the gate channel, and that an integral gasket is compressed between the body halves. The claimed structure differs substantially from that of Owens by eliminating a potential leak path from the valve. For the above reasons and in view of the amendment to claim 10, reconsideration and allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 depends directly from claim 10, and Applicants respectfully submit that claim 11 is patentable over the cited prior art for the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 10. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claim 11.

Amended claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, a gate seal for mounting in a gate seal chamber defined by mating valve body halves of a knife gate valve. The knife gate valve comprises a flow channel and a knife gate slidable in a gate channel between an open position that allows flow within the flow channel and a closed position that blocks flow within the flow channel. The gate seal has a sealing surface lining a perimeter of the gate channel for creating a seal with the knife gate in the closed position. An integral gasket extends from the gate seal in a direction opposite the sealing surface and is compressed between the body halves.

Owens is discussed above. Applicants respectfully submit that Owens fails to disclose or suggest the claimed structure of a gate seal that lines a perimeter of a gate channel. Further, Owens fails to disclose or suggest a sealing gasket that is compressed between and seals the body halves. The present invention of claim 13, as amended, recites that the seal lines the perimeter of the gate channel, and that an integral gasket is compressed between the body halves. The claimed structure differs substantially from that of Owens by eliminating a potential leak path from the valve. For the above reasons and in view of the amendment to claim 13, reconsideration and allowance of claim 13 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

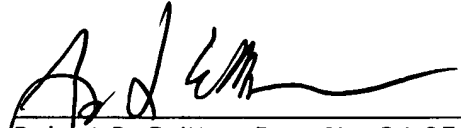
Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,157 to Van De Lande. Claim 12 depends from claim 10 and Applicants

respectfully submit that claim 12 is patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 10.

Conclusion

With the foregoing amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-33 are all in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of claims 10-13, 32, and 33 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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